Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—_"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method <u>practiced by a computer</u> for signaling <u>to a user a</u> write status <u>of an external storage device connected to the computer</u>, the method comprising:

detecting transfer of data from the computer to an the external storage device plugged into an input/output port associated with a computer; and

activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has not been completed by the external storage device;

the computer receiving from the external storage device an indication that the external storage device has completed writing to non-volatile memory of the external storage device; and responsive to the received indication, the computer deactivating the write-in-progress indicator to convey to the user that it is safe to disconnect the external storage device from the computer.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device <u>directly</u> plugged into an input/output port of the computer.

- 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device <u>directly</u> plugged into an input/output port provided in a front panel of the computer.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator of the computer that is adjacent the input/output port.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output port of a connector hub that is connected to the computer.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator of the connector hub that is adjacent the input/output port.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises activating an indicator light associated with the input/output port.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein activating an indicator light comprises activating a light-emitting diode associated with the input/output port.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress indicator comprises issuing an advanced configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 1, wherein communicating with the external storage device comprises the computer receives the indication from the external storage device in response to the computer sending a command requesting confirmation when writing is completed or a query requesting an indication as to whether writing is completed.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A system stored on a computer-readable medium that stores a system, the system comprising:

logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator when data is transferred to an external storage device that is plugged into an input/output port associated with a computer, the indicator signaling that writing has not been completed by the external storage device;

logic configured to determine when the external storage device has completed writing request indication from the external storage device as to when it has completed writing data to non-volatile memory of the external storage device; and

logic configured to receive from the external storage device an indication that the external storage device has completed writing to the non-volatile memory of the external storage device; and

logic configured to deactivate the write-in-progress indicator when it is determined that writing has been completed the indication has been received.

- 19. (Currently amended) The system computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to activate an indicator adjacent the input/output port.
- 20. (Currently amended) The system computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to issue an advanced configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

21-32. (Canceled)